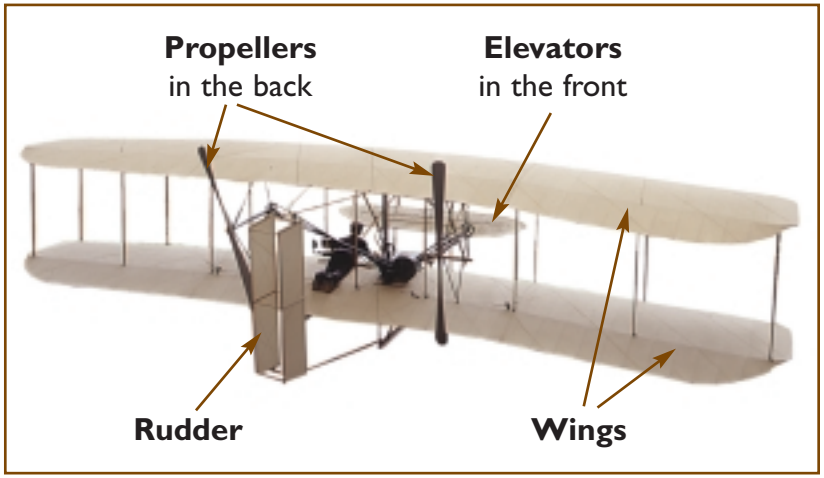

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

- ★ All the Wright airplanes are covered with cotton fabric called muslin (the "plane clothes").
- ★ Many of the silver parts of the Wright airplanes are wood painted with a mixture of shellac and aluminum.
- ★ All Wright airplanes use a chain-and-sprocket transmission to link the engine and the propellers.
- ★ The first powered, heavier-than-air, sustained flights with a pilot were made on December 17, 1903, by Orville and Wilbur Wright.
- ★ The 1909 Wright Military Flyer was flight tested at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia.
- ★ When the elevators are in front of the wings, it is called a canard configuration.
- ★ The Wright brothers' patent was for the 1902 glider, not a powered airplane.
- ★ The 1911 Wright EX *Vin Fiz* was the first to fly across the United States. It took 49 days.

Learn more about the Wright brothers on the Museum's web site,
www.nasm.si.edu/wrightbrothers

Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

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Discovery Guide

Be a "Plane Clothes" Detective

ON THE WRIGHT BROTHERS' FLIGHT PATH

Be on the look out for

PROPELLERS ★ TAILS ★ WINGS

(But don't be surprised if the ***propellers*** *are in the* ***back!****)*

1903 WRIGHT FLYER

The Wright Brothers & the Invention of the Aerial Age
Gallery 209, second floor

1911 WRIGHT EX 'VIN FIZ'

Pioneers of Flight Gallery 208, second floor

1909 WRIGHT MILITARY FLYER

Early Flight Gallery 107, first floor

READY DETECTIVES?

***Look* at the Wright brothers' three airplanes.**
***Discuss* what you observe.**
(Use the picture on the back page for clues.)
***Record* your observations on the checklist below.**
How are they alike? How are they different?

	1903 Wright Flyer	**1911 Wright EX *Vin Fiz***	**1909 Wright Military Flyer**
elevators			
pilot position			
propeller			
rudder			
seats			
tail with rudder *and* elevator			
rudder art/wing art			
wings			
other			